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Al Juhnke
State Representative

District 15A
Kandiyohi County



Minnesota House of Representatives

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May 14, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20544

Confirmed
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Distribution Center

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to encourage the Federal Communications Commission to approve Qwest's application to provide long-distance service in Minnesota.

I represent a predominantly rural district in west central Minnesota that contains all or parts of 18 rural exchanges including one Qwest exchange that serves my hometown of Willmar. As a member of the House Regulated Industries Committee, I have been an advocate for parity between rural and urban telecommunications customers. I believe that FCC approval of Qwest's 271 application will benefit rural customers.

Authorizing Qwest to enter the interstate, interLATA market eliminates the significance of LATAs and allows Qwest to configure networks and purchase network services that are potentially less expensive. Consumers benefit because they are able to control both their long-distance services and the costs associated with those services. This leads to greater choice, better and more reliable services and more control over the services purchased.

In addition, the telecommunications industry in Minnesota has seen significant job loss over the past two years. I believe that granting Qwest the authority to provide long-distance service in Minnesota will slow the job loss and permit Qwest to better compete with cable and wireless providers who can currently offer a bundle of services – including long-distance. Employees and consumers benefit from 271 approval.

Sincerely,

Al Juhnke
State Representative

